Published by the City of Lafayette
Winter 2005
Vol. 15, No.1

LAFAYETTE VISTAS

Downtown Looking Up

Lafayette Mercantile to Break Ground This Spring

You may have noticed the vacant lot across the street from Town Center. Have you ever wondered what, if anything, was going to happen to this prime piece of downtown real estate? Well, wonder no longer — Cortese Properties (owner and developer of La Fiesta Square) is scheduled to break ground this spring on the Lafayette Mercantile, a mixed-use retail and office project.

In addition to the large vacant lot, currently being used for parking, the Lafayette Mercantile project will consolidate three other parcels on the south side of Mt. Diablo Blvd. between Lafayette Circle and Dewing Ave. The new development will consist of one 2-story building and one 3-story building totaling 55,650 square feet. Retail uses, including at least one full service restaurant, will occupy the ground floors while offices will occupy the second and third floors. The project will provide 184 parking spaces on two levels, one at street level and one partially underground. There will be an additional fifteen spaces of convenient diagonal parking on Mt. Diablo Blvd. in front of the retail shops.

A courtyard and landscaped plaza will provide pedestrian access from Mt. Diablo Blvd. to the parking located at the rear of the property. Lined by decorative planters, the plaza will include a sculpture and a water feature. On the second floor, a pedestrian bridge will connect the two buildings.

Lafayette Mercantile will add life and color to the downtown retail pedestrian corridor and the City is eager to see this long vacant parcel redeveloped by a project of this caliber.

Artist rendering of Lafayette Mercantile from the corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Lafayette Circle.

Artist rendering of Lafayette Mercantile from retail parking.

New and Notable Businesses in Lafayette

- **Pizza Antica**
  Town Center
  3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
  Pizza, pasta, & salads
- **Thyme**
  71 Lafayette Circle
  Soup, salad & sandwiches
- **Red Wagon**
  La Fiesta Square
  3535A Mt. Diablo Blvd.
  Classic children's clothing, shoes, accessories and toys
- **Big Sky Luxury Yarn**
  Town Center
  3604 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
  Quality yarns, tools, books & knitting classes
- **Pendleton**
  La Fiesta Square
  543 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
  Woolen clothing for men & women, blankets and home furnishings

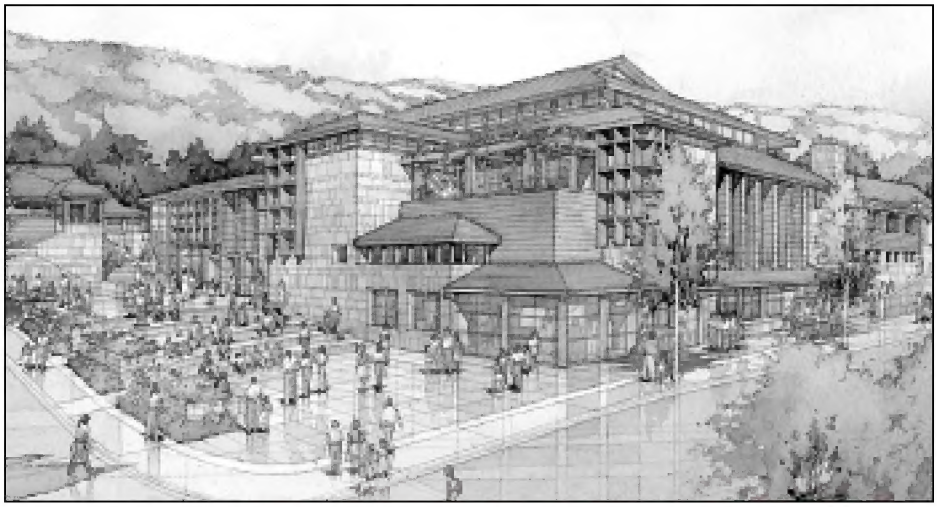
$12 Million Reasons to Smile
LAFAYETTE RECEIVES LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT

On November 29, 2004, Lafayette received an early holiday gift – an $11.9 million grant to help construct the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

The award, from the California Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Board, came after a year of work by City staff and volunteers that culminated in a tense day-long hearing in Sacramento. At that hearing, 72 California communities, asking for a total of $586 million, competed for $72 million in available funds. Lafayette, one of 20 library projects rated as "outstanding," was also competing with two other outstanding projects in Contra Costa County – Antioch and Walnut Creek.

City Manager Steve Falk said, "Every single one of those 72 projects was deserving, but the Lafayette Library and Learning Center was distinguished by its proposal for innovative partnerships."

The new Lafayette Library and Learning Center will be home to the Glenn Seaborg Consortium, an unprecedented collaboration among 12 high-profile arts, education, and cultural organizations including the Lawrence Hall of Science, the Oakland Zoo, the Commonweath Club and the California Shakespeare Theater. The Consortium has been widely praised in prestigious library journals around the country as a national model for future libraries. At the hearing, Lafayette representatives told the board that, "By selecting this proposal you can give the most innovative state in the union, California, the opportunity to change public libraries in this country."



Artist rendering of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center

Anne Grodin, former mayor of Lafayette, and chair of the Lafayette Community Foundation, says, "This is a wonderful day for Lafayette, but even more important, it's a wonderful day for libraries. Our private campaign, which will raise the critical funds not covered by public moneys, is just getting underway. Early response has been so positive because visionary supporters – individuals, families, foundations, businesses – see the same excitement that captured the bond board's attention."

The total cost of the library construction is expected to be $31 million. Along with the state grant, a private fund raising campaign is expected to raise an additional $11 million with the remainder of the project being funded by the Lafayette Redevelopment Agency. No funds from the City of Lafayette will be expended on this project .

Groundbreaking is scheduled for Summer 2005 and the new Lafayette Library & Learning Center will open its doors in 2008.

Artist rendering of Lafayette Library and Learning Center (interior)

New Faces

In the last year, the City Council has appointed a number of new volunteers to serve on several City commissions and committees:

- **Planning Commission:** *Thomas Chastain, Jamie Harris*
- **Design Review Commission:** *Robert Cleaver*
- **Circulation Commission:** *Richard B. Hughes*
- **Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission:** *Michael Ousley*
- **Senior Services Commission:** *Susan Hahn, Narayan Nayak*
- **Creeks Committee:** *Ryan Svoboda*
- **Banner Advisory Committee:** *Linda Peterson*
- **Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District Board of Trustees:** *James Fitzsimmons*

Help Wanted

The City runs with the help of over 200 volunteers! There are openings on the following commissions and committees:

- Senior Services Commission
- Contra Costa Advisory Council on Aging (CCACA)
- Creeks Committee
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

The City is also looking for qualified individuals to fill these paid positions:

- Accounting Assistant (part-time)
- Park Maintenance Specialist (full time)
- Minute Taker

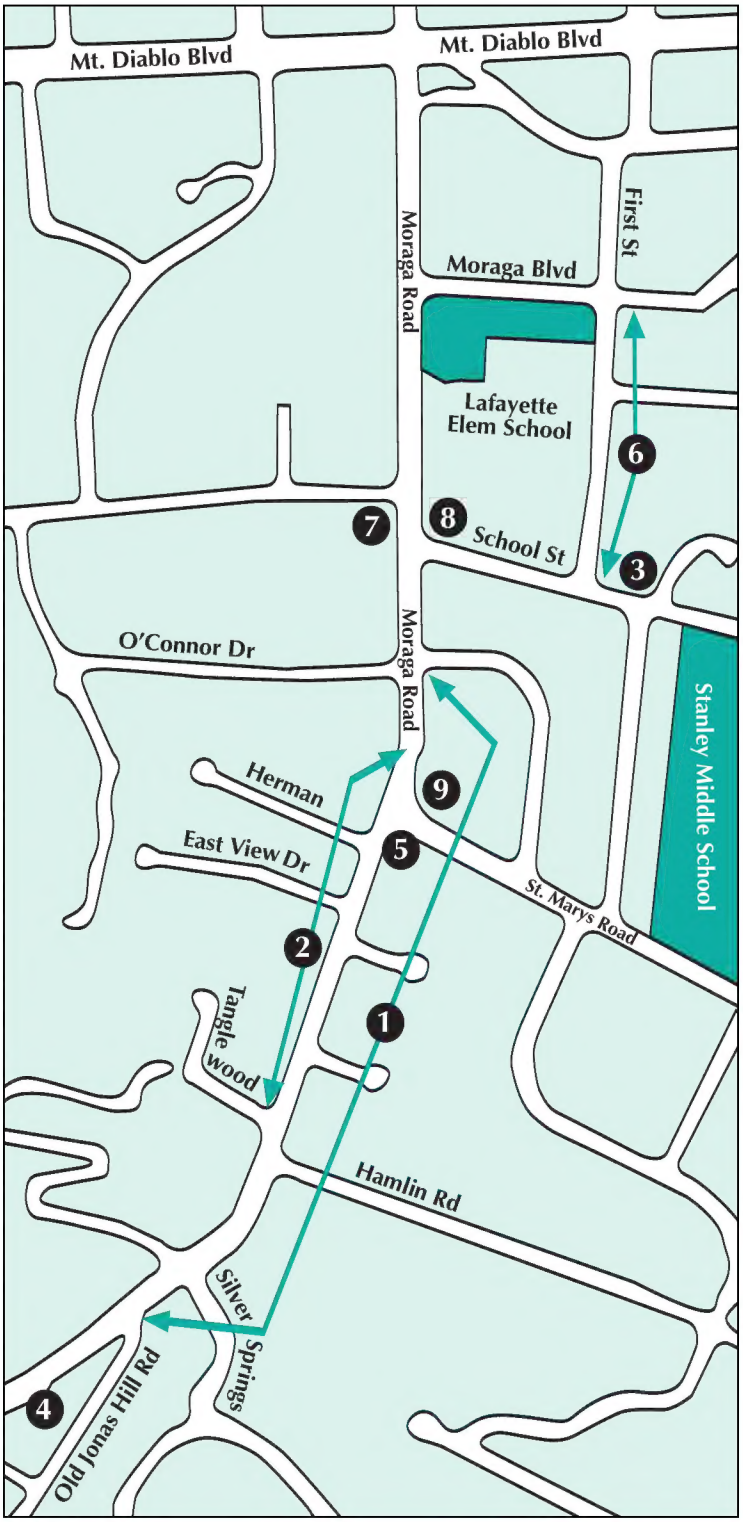
For more information, please check the City's website at **www.lovelafayette.org.**

Moraga Road Traffic Improvements to be Completed this Summer

Based on recommendations by the Moraga Road Transportation Advisory Committee (MORTRAC), the City Council has approved a comprehensive project aimed at mitigating some of the congestion problems on Moraga Road while at the same time improving pedestrian and bicycle safety. Construction will begin in Spring 2005. The entire cost of the project, including pavement and drainage rehabilitation, is $2 million, to be paid for by Measure C funds.

Capital improvements will include (see map):

1. Widening and resurfacing the pedestrian path on the east side of Moraga Road between Rosedale Ave. and Old Jonas Hill Road.
2. Constructing a new pedestrian path on the west side between St. Mary's Road and Tanglewood Drive.
3. Extending the path along the north side of School Street from First Street to Avalon Ct.
4. Installing an electronic warning sign for northbound Moraga Road south of Old Jonas Hill to advise motorists of congestion ahead.
5. Improving the pedestrian crossing at Herman Drive.
6. Modifying curb ramps on First Street pathways to be in line and the same width as the path.
7. Installing pedestrian actuated electronic signs to more efficiently regulate east and southbound right-turn-on-red restrictions.
8. Widening sidewalk along the east side of Moraga Road to improve access to the Brook Street crosswalk.
9. Improving the pedestrian safety at the St. Mary's Road intersection by modifying the existing island, installing crosswalks and signals and constructing a new pathway from St. Mary's Road that connects to the existing pathway on the east side of Moraga Road.
10. Install speed feedback signs for northbound Moraga Road near City limit (not shown).



SF Opera Concertmaster, Kay Stern (L) and Violist/Artistic Director Pamela Freund-Striplen (R)

Critics Agree: the Gold Coast Chamber Players are a GEM!

Lafayette is home to this world renowned music ensemble which brings stellar concerts to the Town Hall Theatre. Join the excitement on Feb. 26 at 8:00 pm for "Moscow Nights"(the 2nd in a 4 concert series). These passionate musicians will re-ignite the embers of Valentine's Day with a concert of Russian music filled with romantic melodies. Surprise the music lover in your life with tickets for Valentine's Day!

Town Hall Box Office: (925) 283-1557 • Information:(925) 283-3728

"The Gold Coast Chamber Players bring to our city sublime chamber music in an intimate concert hall. Their superb playing in an acoustically excellent space provides a rare listening experience." – Erling Horn, former Mayor of Lafayette

City Fetes Mayor Erling Horn for 22 Years of Civic Duty

Parking Commission 1982 – 1986 (Chair 1985)
Planning Commission 1986 – 1995 (Chair 1990, 1995)
City Council 1995 – 2004 (Mayor 1999, 2004)

Photo by: Rolfe Horn

It all started with a traffic accident at Lafayette School. In 1982, as Erling Horn was dropping his children off at school, he witnessed the aftermath of an accident where a child had been hit by a car. Luckily, the injury was minor, but Horn fired off an angry letter to the *Sun* demanding that the Mayor address the dangerous traffic conditions at the site. A few weeks later, the Mayor approached Horn at his kids' soccer game and challenged him to be part of the solution by joining one of the City's commissions. Erling took that challenge to heart and after 22 years of volunteer service, Mayor Horn stepped down from the City Council dais for the last time on December 13, 2004.

When asked about his accomplishments, Horn humorously cites his involvement in "foreign policy." Horn served as the City's representative to several organizations outside Lafayette including the League of California Cities, the National Fire Protection Association, County Connection, the Solid Waste Authority, the Bay Area Air Quality Management Board and the County Hazardous Materials Commission. "Lafayette is beautiful, but sometimes we forget that we exist within a larger area, both within the county and the state. I feel I was able to put a face on Lafayette and express our concerns and ideas to others outside our city."

Erling is very proud of the city that Lafayette has become since he moved here from Walnut Creek in 1978. "I have seen the city become much more community focused in recent years. We have been able to develop a vibrant downtown which includes restaurants with outdoor seating, art galleries, charming boutique shops, concerts in the plaza, and the Art & Wine Festival. I am pleased to have been part of many of the decisions that have made that possible – everything from sign ordinances and downtown street improvement plans to the Redevelopment Agency which will bring us a new Library and Veterans Memorial Hall."

So, what will he do now? Always supportive of the local arts and as a father to two artists himself – an internationally known photographer and a professional musician – Erling will continue to be on the scene in Lafayette attending concerts in the Plaza with his wife, Patricia, and supporting the Stanley music program. Oh, and he is also going to help his 99-year old father build a house in Oakland. Given the longevity embedded in his genes, Erling will continue to be an inspiration to our city for a long time.

City Directory

For Council Members call: **284-1968**

Council Members

Carl Anduri	**Mayor**
Ivor Samson	**Vice Mayor**
Mike Anderson	**Council Member**
Carol Federighi	**Council Member**
Don Tatzin	**Council Member**

Messages to **all** Council Members:
cityhall@lovelafayette.org

Administration

General Reception and	**284-1968**
Steven Falk, City Manager	**Fax: 284-3169**
Tracy Robinson, Admin. Srv. Dir.	**299-3227**
Gonzalo Silva, Financial Srv. Mgr.	**299-3213**
Joanne Robbins, City Clerk	**299-3210**

Community Development

Ann Merideth, Director	**299-3218**
Tony Coe, Engineering Srv. Mgr.	**284-1951**
Niroop Srivatsa, Planning Srv. Mgr.	**284-1976**
Ron Lefler, Public Works Srv. Mgr.	**299-3214**
P.W. Hotline (to report problems)	**299-3259**

If you observe illegal dumping in creeks & storm drains or accidental spills on roads, call Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Division 646-2286.

Lamorinda School Bus Program

Juliet Shanks, Analyst	**299-3216**
	Or 299-3215

Parks, Trails and Recreation — 284-2232

Jennifer Russell, Director	
Senior Services	**284-5050**
Teen Programs	**284-5815**

Police Services

Emergency: 24 Hours	**911**
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours	**284-5010**
Police Business Office:	**283-3680**

Anonymous Tipline, Traffic Enforcement, Suggestions & LEARN (Laf. Emergency Action Response Network), 299-3232 X 2205

Fax	**284-3169**
Address	**3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210, Lafayette, CA 94549**
Website:	**www.ci.lafayette.ca.us**

E-MAIL: Council/staff members can be reached via e-mail using this address format:
First Initial + Last Name @lovelafayette.org
Example: SFalk@lovelafayette.org

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